









## Hussein visits Amman army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein called at the army headquarters in Amman Saturday and met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants. During the meeting the King discussed with the army chiefs subjects of concern to the armed forces and passed directives concerning these issues.

## Princess Basma inspects Madaba social centre

MADABA (Petra) — Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF) President Her Highness Princess Basma Saturday visited the social services centre in Madaba District which were set up by QAJWF within its plans aiming at developing social services in the district. Princess Basma toured the various sections of the centre and inspected the progress of work and services provided to citizens in the district. She also urged the centre's employees to draw up educational plans and health programmes to train girls in various professions and in the care of children.



Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat (head of table) opens meetings of the Arab Railways Union Saturday during which he voiced Jordan's support for the establishment of an Arab World railroad network (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Ethiopia discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Ethiopia Saturday opened talks aimed at promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The talks were conducted by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani and the visiting Ethiopian minister of foreign trade, who arrived here Friday morning at the head of an official delegation for a visit expected to last several days. At the meeting Dr. Anani spoke about Jordan's potentials and its policy for encouraging trade exchanges and means of promoting maritime and air transport cooperation.

## SSC revamps resthouses, hotels for winter tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) Saturday decided to start refurbishing hotels and resthouses which they purchased recently in order to prepare them for tourism in the coming winter. The decision was taken at a meeting by the SSC's investment committee chaired by Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar in his capacity as chairman of SSC's board of directors. SSC bought the Amra hotel in Amman, the Petra Hotel and the Aqaba Hotel in addition to 19 resthouses recently and work to be carried out will encourage both local and foreign tourists, a committee spokesman said. The hotels and resthouses will have facilities for children and recreation, he said.

## Anani stresses the need for standards in industry as AOSM session opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) opened a four-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss a host of issues pertaining to Arab standards and to endorse 133 specifications in the Arab World. The first session of the AOSM special committee was opened by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani who said that standards and specifications have improved industrial business in Jordan, improved the quality of finished products and helped to prevent pollution in the country. Standards and specifications have indeed helped to promote local industry and also to promote the marketing of national products, the minister said. Speakers in the opening session included AOSM Secretary General Zafer Al Sawwaf who spoke about the organisation's activities and programmes. Specifications and standards have the utmost importance in trade and industry and help to develop production and improve quality of goods, he said. Representatives of regional and international organisations and members of diplomatic missions in Amman attended the opening session.

## Transport minister highlights economics of railroads

## Jordan supports setting up an Arab World railway network, Hikmat says

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Taher Hikmat Saturday voiced Jordan's support for the establishment of a railway network in the Arab World and for holding training courses for personnel to be employed in Arab railway companies.

He said that this project would be the first step towards freeing the Arab World from restrictions and dependence on foreign skills and expertise in transport affairs. The minister was addressing the opening session of the Arab Railway Union (ARU) meeting which opened in Amman to discuss ways to develop railway transport and a plan for developing the union's activities over the coming two years.

Mr. Hikmat told the meeting that Jordan will continue to host pan-Arab meetings and will also encourage projects that enhance joint Arab action for the interest of the Arab people. World nations have lately begun to modernise their railway systems in the light of

world transport developments and in a bid to ensure efficient and fast means of transport, the minister said. He added that a successful economy depends to a large extent on cheap transport facilities which help promote marketing and exports in general.

## Oil prices

The increase in oil prices and the dangers in maritime transport caused the cost of transporting goods to rocket, the minister said. "It is a pity indeed to see that the cost of transport in the Arab World, which contains huge oil reserves, amounts to almost 50 per cent of the final price of goods offered for sale, while tra-

nsportation costs constitute only 10 per cent of the price of goods in the western world, the minister pointed out.

However, he said, recent studies conducted on transport showed that the cost of transportation by rail amounts nearly to one third of the other means of land transport and for this reason 50 countries around the world have planned to establish 200 railway projects extending 60,000 kilometres that will cost \$60 billion to build.

Apart from the railway projects, the two-day meeting will discuss a report by the ARU secretary general, a general budget and for 1985 and a date for holding the next general assembly meeting. Taking part in the meetings are delegations representing railway corporations in Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Libya in addition to representatives from the Arab League, the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the Arab Land Transport Union.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Committee prepares for expatriate talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A preparatory meeting for the first conference on Jordanian expatriates was held in Amman Saturday under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar. The committee preparing for the conference discussed the type of working papers which should be presented to the conference and also financial aspects and arrangements for holding it in Amman. Also discussed was the number of people to be invited to the projected conference from Jordan and abroad.

## Beware of smuggled U.S. cars

AMMAN (Petra) — The licensing department is launching a wide scale search to trace smuggled cars, mainly U.S. makes. It said in a statement that 250 cars have so far been found and impounded by the department since April this year. The department advised people to make sure to find the original and genuine number of the chassis which appears in embossed figures under the dashboard when they buy any U.S. made car so that the number can be appear in the department's papers and files for later reference.

## Garbage trucks for a spring clean up

AMMAN (Petra) — A West German company is to supply Amman Municipality with 37 trucks, worth \$2.4 million, for collecting garbage in accordance with an agreement signed here Saturday. Municipality sources said that the West German company will start supplying the trucks in the coming Spring. The agreement was signed by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and a representative of the company.

## CAA director leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Khaled Mohammad Ali left for Baghdad Saturday for talks with Iraqi civil aviation authority officials regarding the bilateral air transport agreement signed between the two countries. He will also take part in the meeting of the Arab Air Cargo board of directors which opens there Sunday.

## JEA projects keep up with ever-increasing electricity demands

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — During 1983 the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) witnessed the highest level of electricity consumed in Jordan. In addition, the JEA implemented a large number of vital electricity projects and programmes during last year, according to the recently published JEA annual report.

The report said that the electricity consumed during 1983 increased by 27.4 per cent over

the previous year. Contracts for the supply and erection of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS), the Amman-Aqaba 400 KV transmission line and the 132 KV National transmission grid were all completed last year according to the report. Supervisory Control Centre (SCC) was also opened and JEA moved into its new Seventh Circle in Amman in 1983, the report added.

## Electricity demand

The JEA report said that the

industrial sector consumed 44.1 per cent of the total electricity in 1983 whilst the domestic sector used 33.2 per cent, the commercial sector 10.9 per cent, water pumping 6.7 per cent and other sectors consumed 5.1 per cent of the total output.

The report added that the industrial sector's consumption has increased more than the other sectors. It has risen from 35 per cent of the total in 1980 to 44.1 per cent in 1983 and is expected to reach about 45 per cent at the end of the current Five Year Plan in 1985.

This large increase in industrial electricity demand, and the severe winter weather during the first quarter of 1983, caused the total demand for electricity to reach its highest peak so far. Electricity sector fuel consumption accounted for 21 per cent of the total consumed fuel in Jordan in 1983 against 17.5 per cent in 1982.

The growth rate in the demand for electricity was about four times the growth rate in the demand for total energy. This compares with a world standard ratio of 2:1. This phenomenon will be rectified in the future when the demand for total energy and electricity is stabilised, said the report.

Average electricity consumption per capita in 1983 amounted to 764 kWh compared with 633 in 1982. This average is still low in comparison with the world average (2,200 kWh per capita).

The report went on to say that the JEA currently supplies all parts of the Kingdom, except a few large industries and autonomous enterprises which still depend on their own generation totally or partially.

The continuing increase in the demand for energy in general, the gradual shift from utilising other forms of energy to the use of electricity, the fixed electrical tariff since 1980 and the expansion in the energy intensive industries such as cement and fertilizer will lead to an increase in the dependence on electricity, the report predicted.

## Demand for Energy

The continuing growth in the economy, dependence on Jordan as an economic and commercial

centre, and the energy consumed continuing exploration for and exploitation of natural resources, all caused an increase in energy consumption in Jordan in 1983.

However this increase was less than in previous years mainly due to the effect of the world economic recession, the decrease in volume of transportation between Jordan and other countries, the increased efficiency of energy utilisation and resource allocation, and increased fuel prices, the report said.

The continued implementation of Jordan's Five Year Plan projects which concentrate on energy intensive industries, the adoption of a trade policy with respect to the Jordanian natural materials and the absence of energy conservation policies means that the demand for energy will increase at a faster rate than the growth in the Jordan economy, according to the report.

## Expansion

During 1983 the JEA continued to expand its power system and was able to meet the increased demand for electricity. Work continued on the erection of the seventh steam unit and the JEA awarded all contracts related to the first stage of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and construction work has already begun. In addition a contract was awarded to supply and erect two gas turbines. The expected completion dates of the projects are 1985, 1986 and end of 1984 respectively.

## Transmission

The report said that the JEA achieved one of its goals in 1983, namely the completion of the 132 KV National Grid by electrifying the Ma'an to Aqaba link. The National Grid extends from Irbid in the North to Aqaba in the South with a total length of 1,280 circuit-km at the end of 1983 compared with 880 circuit-km at the end of 1982.

In order to deliver the generated energy from the ATPS to the load centres in the north, and to facilitate inter-connection with neighbouring countries, contracts were awarded in 1983 for the 400 KV double circuit transmission line project between Amman and

Aqaba with a route length of 322 km. Work in this line has already started.

## Rural electrification

The government attaches great importance to rural electrification and a number of projects were completed in 1983 either by JEA or the distribution companies, said the report.

Ninety-eight villages were supplied with electricity for the first time during 1983 bringing the total number to 333 electrified villages inhabited by 745,000 people, 73 per cent of the total rural population.

Electrification work is expected to accelerate in the next few years to meet the aims of the Five Year Plan. These are to improve the level of services in the rural areas, to encourage rural population to settle in their lands and to curb migration to large urban centres. It is expected that most of the rural population will be supplied with electricity by the end of 1985, when 549 villages inhabited by about one million people (89 per cent of the total rural population) will be electrified, according to the report.

The report went on to discuss the National Supervisory Control Centre (SSC) which was completed and commissioned during 1983. The report stated that the National Grid will be controlled through this centre which will in turn lead to more reliable and improved supplies to all consumers in the Kingdom.

## Consumers

The JEA report said that 36,000 new consumers were connected to the electricity supply during 1983, compared with 27,000 consumers in 1982. The total number of connected consumers at the end of 1983 was 323,000, representing 77 per cent of the total population, compared with 287,000 consumers, representing 74 per cent of the population in 1982, according to the report.

The JEA annual report also said that 99,905 per cent reliability of electricity supply was achieved last year, a figure that compares favourably with many industrialised countries, it added.

## Ali affirms commitments

(Continued from page 1)

Nonetheless, Kuwait was "fully appreciative" of Egypt's Arab and international role and the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's "Arab inclinations", and hoped that the Arab World "will unite on all that is good for the Arabs", the spokesman added.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE earlier this week issued a statement similar to the Kuwaiti one. Other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are putting out similar statements.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman in a regional alliance in quest of economic integration and collective defence. Oman has already welcomed the Jordanian decision.

Of the six, Oman was one of the three Arab countries which did not comply with the Baghdad summit resolution calling for the boycott of Egypt. The other two were Sudan and Somalia.

Earlier Saturday, the deputy speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly urged the government to halt aid to Jordan following the resumption of diplomatic relations between Amman and Cairo.

"The reason for offering this aid has fallen away after Jordan restored its ties with Egypt," the Arabic daily Al Qabas quoted Ahmad Al Sadon as saying. South Yemen Friday criticised the Jordanian decision and said the move violated Arab summit resolutions.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad phoned Saudi Arabia's King Fahd for talks inf-

ormed sources believed focused on Jordan's decision to restore relations with Egypt.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said Saturday the talks Friday night covered latest Middle East developments.

But the sources said they believed the telephone conversation centred on Jordan's decision.

Saudi Arabia criticised Jordan for its move without first consulting other Arab states, but an official Saudi statement said Riyadh's criticism should not be interpreted as lessening Saudi Arabia's insistence on Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

Syria, for its part, strongly condemned the move as a departure from Arab summit resolution and said it would consider "ways to counter the new situation."

In Rabat, Moroccan daily l'Opinion, Thursday welcomed the resumption of Jordanian-Egyptian diplomatic relations saying it will strengthen Cairo's hand vis-a-vis Israel and the United States.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry statement Thursday said Arab countries should meet to examine the implications of Jordan's decision to reestablish relations with Egypt.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday discussed the restoration of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt in talks with Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jabbar Al-Ahmad Al Sabah, and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Palestinian sources, quoted by Reuters, said they also discussed efforts to reunite PLO factions.

## Broader range of subjects available to new students at Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran Saturday met students who joined the university for the first time in the current 1984/85 academic year. In a speech to the students he spoke about the university programmes and plans for developing and modernising the curricula, and stressed the need for students to try to benefit from the courses as best as they can.

Altogether 3,003 students enrolled in various faculties at the university this year in addition to 500 students who are doing post graduate studies, Dr. Badran said in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra. The university has this year opened a faculty for medicine and another for dentistry and a technology college to offer three-year courses in computers and communications, Dr. Badran pointed out.

In the future, he said, the university will open new faculties that have direct connection with the needs of local communities. The present number of students now stands at 14,000 but in the future

the university's permanent premises will accept many more students, Dr. Badran said.

Referring to some complaints about the recent increases in fees for the new students, Dr. Badran said that the university does not aim to make profit, and the fees collected from students hardly cover 25 per cent of the cost of their education. He said that government financial contributions to the university are normally spent on projects and the fees from students barely cover part of the recurrent expenses. However, he said, there is a special fund to help needy students.

According to Dr. Badran, this year the university has opened an archaeology and anthropology institute for post graduate students, transformed the nursing and pharmacy departments into faculties, established an Islamic cultural centre, introduced three departments to deal with finance, maintenance and purchases and is putting the finishing touches to living quarters to accommodate an

additional 2000 female students.

Work is also going ahead to transfer the engineering faculty to the permanent premises north of Irbid and plans are being drawn up for building a university hospital for training doctors, Dr. Badran said.

## International, Arab funds help farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED) discussed with officials from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) here Saturday lending loans to small farmers involved in a project to develop rain-fed agricultural land.

The AFSED is acting for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in financing the project which is expected to be completed by 1986.

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## Can we reduce our dependency on oil?

By Fahed Fanek

RELATIVE TO the size of the Jordanian economy measured by the gross domestic product we are consuming oil almost three times the world average. In 1983 the world was consuming 1.74 barrels per 1000 in 1980 dollars of gross domestic product. In Jordan the figure is as high as five barrels. This astounding rate is much higher than the U.S. average of 3.98, U.K. 2.12, France 1.63, Germany 1.54, Japan 1.84, Soviet Union 2.54, China 1.13, India 0.78, Brazil 1.29 and Mexico 2.48.

On per capita consumption, we find that the average annual consumption in Jordan in 1983 was around nine barrels per person against 4.4 barrels world-wide. In other words we

were consuming double the international average of individual share.

Moreover, the world in general was successful in reducing dependency on oil since the first oil shock in 1973/1974 and especially after the second oil shock in 1979/1980.

At that very period Jordan was increasing oil consumption at a staggering 17 per cent per year, or more than double the economic growth in real terms.

According to a report covering the "state of the world" issued by Worldwatch Institute, the top component of a sustainable development strategy is reducing dependence on oil, followed by developing renewable energy resources, conserving soil, protecting the

earth's biological support systems, and recycling materials.

Following is a table showing oil intensity of world economic output, measured by barrels of oil used per 1000 of 1980 dollars of gross domestic product.

Year	barrels
1973	2.27
1974	2.13
1975	2.05
1976	2.15
1977	2.16
1978	2.14
1979	2.15
1980	2.05
1981	1.93
1982	1.86
1983	1.74

The world responded to the fuel price hikes by reducing dependency on oil during 1974 and 1975, but later absorbed the shock and continued the rising trend until 1979 when the world turned the corner.

Since that time world oil consumption has fallen sharply in each of the four years since, declining by 14 per cent.

In Jordan the energy policy (or lack of it) prevented the market forces from doing the trick. The government decided to neutralise the market by subsidising oil, which naturally encouraged more consumption instead of conservation.

Higher prices of oil derivatives were able to reduce petroleum consumption in

1982 in comparison with the peak year 1973 or 1979 by 19 per cent in USA, 28 per cent in U.K., 19 per cent in France, 21 per cent in Germany, 22 per cent in Japan, five per cent in China, two per cent in India and 10 per cent in Brazil.

Most countries use pricing to curb consumption. They not only require the consumer of gasoline to pay the total cost, but they also add tax which in many cases was over 100 per cent of the cost, such as South Korea, Belgium, U.K., Netherlands, Argentina and Colombia.

Can we do something to reduce our dependency on oil?

The answer is yes, especially when we notice that relative to

our population and output we are consuming double to three times the international norms, and even beating the spoiled peoples of USA and Mexico.

We can (or should) abolish subsidy and impose tax, put a hold on importation of big cars, encourage public transportation instead of private cars, use alternative sources of energy, apply day light saving time in the summer, insulate houses, and introduce a wide range of government regulations and incentives both positive and negative.

If creating sustainable economic growth and stability is essential, reducing dependency on oil cannot be avoided any longer.

## The key's not here

IT IS rather amusing to see the world react to every Jordanian move as if it were the key that unlocks the Arab-Israeli stalemate. When parliament was reconvened earlier this year, it was widely interpreted as a move to prod broader Arab-Israeli negotiations. When Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat flies into Amman, or within a few hundred kilometres, it is interpreted as a new joint effort with Jordan to negotiate peace with Israel. When Jordan studied the September 1982 Reagan initiative with great care, it was thought to be the start of a new era of Middle Eastern diplomacy. But none of this has happened.

Now, the restoration of ties with Egypt is being seen by many western observers in the same light. One wonders what the evidence is.

It is not up to Jordan itself, either with the PLO or Egypt or any other Arab party, suddenly to revive long-stalled Middle Eastern peace-making efforts. It takes two to make peace. Jordan's terms for genuine and lasting peace and coexistence with Israel are clear. They are the same terms that all the other Arabs subscribe to, in the form of the Fez summit resolutions. It is neither within Jordan's power, nor consistent with its principles, to break away from the Arab consensus and dive into a bilateral peace-making effort with Israel, even with Egypt holding our hand.

It would serve everybody well if slightly less attention were focussed on Jordan, and more on the American-Israeli axis, in the quest for the key that might unlock the Arab-Israeli peace-making riddle. The Arabs have offered a dignified formula that is based on coexistence, security for all and real peace. The Israelis have offered continued colonisation of Palestinian land, refusal to deal with the accepted leadership of the Palestinians, and insistence on maintaining control of the most important parts of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The Americans have offered something in between, on paper, but in practice they increase their aid to Israel and thereby allow Israel to perpetuate its policies.

It is unrealistic to think that Jordan could launch an initiative itself to revive Arab-Israeli peace efforts. Those who look to Amman to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict only perpetuate the mythology of those who refuse to deal with the Palestinians and their chosen leadership.

Where, one asks again, are those Israelis who would reciprocate the stated Arab terms for a fair and lasting peace? We talk of peace and coexistence, but we hear few voices from Israel who talk the same language. Isn't that where one should look, if one is looking for something new to break the Middle Eastern stalemate?

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Positive Soviet stance

THE SOVIET Union is a peace-loving nation and for the sake of maintaining peace, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met in New York with Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to persuade him to accept the idea of an international conference to settle the Middle East issue. That meeting did not yield any fruitful results. For the same purpose, Mr. Gromyko met with President Reagan at the White House with whom he discussed also a host of world issues and disarmament.

The Reagan-Gromyko meeting was another chance for the United States to force Israel to abide by the international will and end its aggression and accept a conference which is designed to achieve peace. If Washington fails to make use of this chance, then Israel will continue to pursue its aggressive policies and Washington would be responsible for further obstacles in the path of peace. The Arab Nation and other peace loving countries around the world appreciate the Soviet Union's endeavours to achieve peace, and it will be impossible from now on for the U.S. to convince the peoples of our region of the alleged Soviet danger. The danger to this region and probably to the whole world stems from Israel's intransigence and U.S. support for Zionist actions and aggressive policies. It is high time for the Arabs to make appraisals of their friends and enemies and deal with each in the required proper way.

#### Al Dustour: Inconsistent criticism

JORDAN'S DECISION to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt is not only a brave step but also a constructive action designed to re-build Arab strength and unify Arab ranks, following a long period of weakness and disarray.

We are really astonished to hear voices criticising Jordan's step, considering it as a violation of the Arab summit resolutions. They tend to forget that the severing of relations with Egypt had never been a resolution, but rather a recommendation by the Arab foreign ministers. Some Arab states maintained their diplomatic ties with Cairo and almost all other Arab states continued to have strong trade and economic relations with Egypt.

By taking this step Jordan had only one purpose in mind: and that is to strengthen the Arab Nation. Countries which criticise the Jordanian step have themselves helped to weaken the Arab Nation and perpetuate the disarray in Arab ranks. They have helped Iran against Iraq in total violation of the Arab defence pact; they abandoned the Palestinians when they were besieged in Beirut by the invading Israeli forces. They have launched war on the PLO in Lebanon and continue to prevent a meeting by the Palestine National Council aimed at bringing about reconciliation among PLO groups.

The time for the war of words and the imposition of tutelage over others has gone and the Arabs should now put their hearts to serious efforts to safeguard their own interests.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Egypt should return

AFTER 34 years of occupation and struggle the Palestinians still have not regained their rights in their homeland, and the Israeli enemy continues to occupy Arab land and establish settlements on it. Israel succeeded because the Arabs were weak. Israel invaded Arab states and imposed its will on their population because the Arabs were divided.

Whenever Israel attacked any Arab state the Arabs used in the past to stand firm together and extend help to the victim and, as in the case of the 1973-war, fought together against the common enemy. When Egypt was out of the Arab fold and isolated, Israel continued to do whatever it wanted without being questioned by any Arab states. It invaded Lebanon and besieged its capital in 1982, and no Arab state was able to do anything to save that country from destruction, all because the Arabs were weak and divided. Now that efforts are being made to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold, the Arabs should feel their strength returning to them. They are about to face a common battle, and when they do, they will be together.

Egypt cannot live without its Arab environment and neighbours, but the other Arab states also cannot do anything to ward off aggression without Egypt. We have no alternative but to stand together in the face of challenges and danger.

## Harsh Gromyko speech holds no surprise for U.S.

By Rodney Pinder  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's U.N. attack on the United States was harsh but unsurprising given the deterioration in superpower relations since President Reagan assumed office, U.S. analysts said Friday.

They said Mr. Gromyko did not appear to have slammed the door and his White House meeting with President Reagan Friday should not be written off on the basis of his speech to the General Assembly Thursday.

"The game is still open. Anyone who expected the Soviets sud-

denly to become very trustful of the president just because of one (Reagan) speech would be crazy," Dimitri Simes, a Soviet exile and a leading expert on U.S.-Soviet affairs, told Reuters.

Mr. Reagan adopted a markedly conciliatory tone in his address to the assembly on Monday and the analysts said the Kremlin was clearly sceptical about this new approach.

They said Moscow would want to see if Mr. Reagan pursued his new line after his expected reelection in November and was not merely pitching for the votes of Americans worried by his anti-Soviet attitude during his first term.

Mr. Reagan said he wanted to break down barriers between the superpowers and proposed high-level meetings.

Mr. Gromyko said Washington's words were aimed at gaining advantage over Moscow and the Soviet Union wanted deeds not talk.

"In these circumstances words can be deeds if delivered with a degree of consistency," Mr. Simes said.

John Steinbruner, a Kremlinologist with the private Brookings Institution, said Mr. Gromyko's speech showed he detected no fundamental change in U.S. policy when he met Secretary

of State George Shultz on Tuesday.

"But if there were to be a major move the president and not the secretary of state would make it," he said.

"Gromyko is waiting for Reagan and is not impressed by what he has seen so far."

"There is always hope that the president has prepared a surprise but that seems unlikely. Gromyko's speech was not the kind one would expect if there were a chance of the discussion being constructive."

Robert Hunter, a foreign policy adviser to Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mon-

dale, said he believed that domestically Mr. Reagan could not lose in his meeting with Mr. Gromyko.

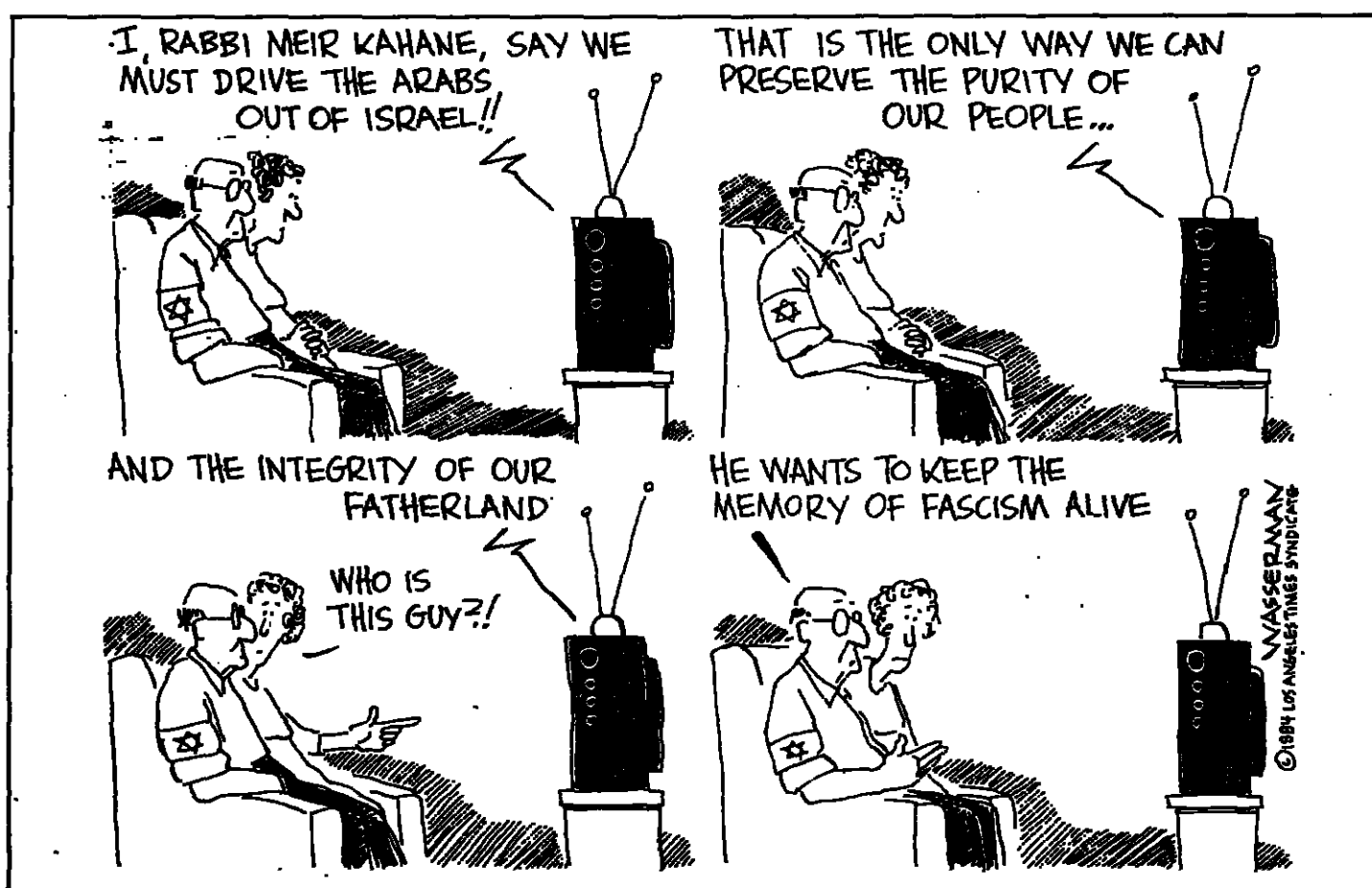
If Mr. Gromyko took a tough line, Mr. Reagan would win points from voters for standing up to him and if relations with Moscow improved, he would get credit for that too, he said.

U.S. analysts believe there can be no quick solutions to the superpower deadlock. They say the United States and the Soviet Union must change their relationship fundamentally to avert disaster and neither has yet shown itself up to the task.

Mr. Steinbruner said he believed U.S.-Soviet relations were at one of their most critical points since World War II, with new types of strategic weapons being developed and the possibility that the arms race might spread into space.

"The two policy systems are trying to understand each other and are having a bad time of it," he said.

"The Soviets quite clearly regard the U.S. as threatening a first strike capability. Obviously the U.S. rejects such a draconian intention, but the response to the Reagan arms build-up will be in kind unless there is a break in the pattern."



## A chance to persuade the Israelis

By Philip Geyelin

WASHINGTON — The new Israeli government of national unity defies description even by Israelis. Prime Minister Shimon Peres calls it a "government of disagreement." Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader who is to take over the top job for the second half of the government's supposed four-year term, calls it a "great national adventure."

Both arch-adversaries in this marriage of necessity are probably right, which means that Israel is almost certainly going to need all of the right kind of help it can get from its traditional supporter, the United States.

The new government is talking about as much as \$1 billion in emergency U.S. aid. That exactly matches the budget cut that the Israelis described last week as no more than an "opening move." What we are seeing, then, is just the beginning of what will have to be a sustained programme of economic austerity and reform.

If America is about to embark on a long "adventure" with a government of "disagreement", it has an opportunity unique in the history of U.S.-Israeli relations.

Among the differences of opinion built into the Israeli government, Washington ought to be free to pick and choose within reason where to throw its weight, without being slapped with the charge that its position is "anti-Israel."

This is not to say that the United States will be able to twist arms with impunity — or ought to; a difficult and delicate balance will be required for Labour, Likud and the minority parties to agree on a coherent course of action. Rather, it is to note that Israel's economic rehabilitation can no longer be seen as something that can be dealt with by economic tinkering and regular aid contributions.

It can only be addressed in the context of larger security issues: withdrawal from the costly presence in Lebanon; the expenses of a widening programme of settlements on the West Bank; the

overall level of Israel's security spending and its connection with the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict over the fate of the Palestinians and the occupied territories.

Thus, at least in theory, a substantial new U.S. involvement in the fate of the Israeli economy becomes the thin end of a wedge that could legitimately open up opportunities for the United States to encourage somewhat more positive Israeli thinking on wider American policy objectives.

Take, for example, Ronald Reagan's "peace plan" for the Middle East. The president has been talking optimistically about reviving his initiative of Sept. 1, 1982. Building on Camp David, he proposed the ultimate federation of the West Bank with Jordan and urged an immediate freeze on Israeli settlements on the contested land. Israel slapped down the idea instantly and pushed forward with new settlements.

The Reagan administration has

never really pressed the point. Only the other day, its national security adviser, Robert McFarlane, ruled out any pressure on Israel on the ground that it would compromise America's "honest broker" standing. Mr. McFarlane would also have us believe that the United States accomplished its mission in Lebanon. So much for U.S. domestic politics.

But Israel's new defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has no such illusions. He is prepared to state that both Israel and the United States failed in Lebanon, and to argue for an early Israeli withdrawal, in part because of a need for defence retrenchment.

Mr. Peres is thought to be ready to freeze further West Bank settlements at the risk of violent disagreement with his coalition partners. So what we have is the emergence of an official Israeli government position that the United States can encourage.

— The Washington Post.

## 'Iron master' wants to tame French police

By Pascal Lieutout  
Reuter

PARIS — Pierre Joxe, France's newly appointed interior minister, faces the delicate task of bringing the turbulent police force under firm control while trying to avoid the bitter confrontations that occurred between police and the previous Socialist government.

Dubbed by the French press as "the iron man" when he took up his post last July in a new cabinet headed by Laurent Fabius, the bespectacled, self-proclaimed Marxist minister has so far adopted a cautious approach to his job.

He spent his first weeks consulting with police unions and inspecting local stations. He avoided public comment except in his first meeting with the press.

"Nobody ever forced me to do something," he told journalists in a clear indication that he intended to be fully in charge.

Ministry sources said that President Francois Mitterrand's decision to scrap the old Secretariat of State for Public Security was taken at the request of Mr. Joxe, who wanted a reunited Interior Ministry hitherto paralysed by conflicting centres of power.

Mr. Joxe, 49, made his reputation as a man of authority dur-

ing his three years as chairman of the Socialist group in the National Assembly between 1981 and 1984.

His ability to tighten the ranks in the 283-member group traditionally splintered among liberals and radicals of varying persuasions earned him Mr. Mitterrand's confidence and the interior portfolio, a post for which he had long yearned.

France's main police union, the Independent Federation of Police Unions (FASP), reacted positively after its first meeting with Mr. Joxe.

"Our impression is that there is a good opportunity for the police

with this new minister," said Secretary-General Bernard Delaplace, whose organisation represents 60 per cent of the police force.

"We met a young, dynamic and modern man who seems to be a man of power and who is already aware of the important needs of the police," he added.

Under the previous cabinet of Pierre Mauroy, the police had three different chains of command — the Presidential Palace, the Interior Ministry headed by veteran politician Gaston Defferre, and the Secretariat of State of Joseph

## British coal strike reaches new peaks of bitterness

By Ronald Thomson  
Reuter

BILSTON, Scotland — Relations between Britain's miners seem to have reached a new peak of bitterness in the seventh month of a strike paralysing most of the country's state-owned coalfields.

Before dawn broke over the big Bilston Glen colliery south of Edinburgh, Jack Aichison took up his picketing post outside the gates, glared at police guards and said:

"There are fellow miners I've known all my life who still go to work here and I will never speak to them again, no matter how this dispute ends."

Mr. Aichison, 37, is a familiar, bulky figure at the entrance to Bilston Glen. Sometimes he has been joined by thousands of fellow-strikers, and police have had to pack the nearby streets to keep a way open for miners wanting to report to work.

Today the dispute is different — more like a war of attrition in which enemies try to wear each other out.

Police cars were silent witnesses of Mr. Aichison's arrival, while other patrol cars cruised the lanes around the pit, 10 miles outside Edinburgh, the Scottish capital. Security men with Alsatian dogs patrolled the perimeter, refusing information and telling inquiring reporters in direct language to go away.

Bilston Glen normally has about 1,000 workers but the strike over pit closures has cut the number to a daily average of 150, many of them from unions not involved in the strike.

Mr. Aichison has fought with police on a day when mass pickets turned out at the pit, but by and large they coexist peacefully.

Up and down Britain his experience is matched by thousands of other strikers. About 80 per cent of the country's 180,000 miners have refused to work since march and the pit-gate pickets are meant to make the walkout total and end coal production.

Legally they can only use persuasion but the tactics often turn to blockade when "flying pickets", sometimes numbering in the thousands, turn up to reinforce regulars like Mr. Aichison.

The police move in to keep the way open, and fighting breaks out. There have been 7,000 arrests and countless injuries.

The pattern has scarcely changed in seven months, only the bitterness has increased. With the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the state-owned National Coal Board (NCB) as far apart as ever, there is little prospect of a breakthrough.

The strike is about NCB plans to close 20 of the country's 174 mines at a cost of 20,000 jobs. The union opposes the closing of mines which still contain coal, while the board insists it will not operate mines which lose money heavily.

Nine rounds of talks have failed to resolve this difference, and now

the only apparent prospect of an end to the strike is a decisive defeat for one or other party.

The miners believe their real enemy is not the coal board, but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"She is totally in command of the strike, although she keeps saying that her government is not involved," remarked Mr. Aichison.

Mr. Thatcher has refused to intervene to try to secure a settlement, but twice in recent days she has spoken out.

There could be no compromise, she said, remarking that if Britain had refused to scrap uneconomic factories and machinery in the past the country would now be a museum.

She also wrote to miners who refused to join the strike: "You are an example to us all."

NUM leader Arthur Scargill replied that he, too, was in no mood for compromise: "we are not prepared after seven months to concede one point on this central question" of pit closures.

Mr. Scargill's men have lost millions of pounds sterling in pay. Most are living on welfare payments, supplemented by stock collections and donations from other unions.

For Mrs. Thatcher, too, there has been a price. The strike is slowing the economic recovery she has been predicting for more than 18 months.

Analysts say the strike has cost the government more than 1.5 billion sterling (\$1.9 billion) and will clip one percentage point from gross domestic product growth this year.

When will it end? The miners have long said that power supplies hold the key, as they did in the 1974 coal strike which helped to topple the Conservative government of Edward Heath.

Coal-fired power stations provide around 80 per cent of the country's electricity and 10 years ago the miners brought industry to a virtual standstill by starving them of coal.

The government insists steps at power stations remain high and some supplies are getting through from the 40-odd working mines. No power cuts will be needed this year, it says.

The miners point to the approach of winter, when coal and electricity demand is at its highest, and say the first cuts could be only weeks away.

They have also recruited the support of the unions' umbrella body, the Trades Union Congress, in a bid to secure the backing of power workers. Another factor which could bring a conclusion closer is the row between the NCB and another mining union, representing pit foremen and other officers who have the power to close all the pits outright if they strike.

Their argument is about pitmen refusing to cross miners' picket lines, and unofficial returns from a ballot of foremen indicate that they favour a walkout.



# USS Liberty refuses to die, 17 years after

By P.V. Vivekanand

The following is the first of a two-part article on the ill-fated U.S. surveillance ship Liberty which was the victim of an Israeli assault off the Egyptian-Israeli coast on June 8, 1967. In this article, the writer, a staff member of the Jordan Times, puts together available data and eyewitness accounts of the affair, before and after the assault which killed 34 American servicemen and wounded 171 on board the Liberty. The Israelis claimed it was a case of "mistaken identity" but Liberty crewmen who survived the attack insist that the assault was pre-planned. This article is written in the wake of a recent report by two Israeli journalists who cited a series of events, which, they say, led to the "tragic accident" when the U.S. navy ship was mistaken for an "enemy ship."

SEVENTEEN YEARS after the U.S. "spy ship" Liberty became the unsuspecting victim of an Israeli assault in the Mediterranean, off the Egyptian-Israeli coast, in which 34 U.S. servicemen lost their lives and 171 others were wounded, Israeli efforts are still in full force to portray the affair as a "tragic mistake" and "a case of mistaken identity" and to shift more than half the blame to U.S. "shortcomings" in diverting the ship to the region.

Washington was more than willing to accept the "abject" Israeli "apology" for the assault in which "friendly fire" was directed at a U.S. service ship by "America's closest ally in the Middle East" and the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that the attack was "an understandable error."

The U.S. reaction was shocking to the survivors of the assault and prompted them to make public the real facts behind the affair. But it was not until 1974, seven years after the attack, when the U.S. Freedom of Information Act was passed, that the survivors were able to seek and publish suppressed information which proved beyond any reasonable doubt that the assault was deliberate, pre-planned and designed to thwart U.S. "interference" in Israeli efforts to achieve the Jewish state's military goals in the Middle East.

In his book "Assault on Liberty," James Ennes, officer-on-deck aboard the Liberty at the time of the attack, clearly reconstructs the events immediately prior to the affair, the actual attack itself and the aftermath, and describes an intense campaign in Washington to extend a protective umbrella to Israel.

But, describing the episode as a result of a "tattoo of errors" on the part of the Israeli generals and U.S. "shortcomings" in deploying the Liberty in the Middle East during the time of war, the Atlantic magazine has published an article by Hirsch Goodman and Ze'ev Schiff. Reproducing some parts of eyewitness accounts of the affair—wherever such excerpts suit the Israeli contention—the article recites a complicated series of events. The prime focus of the article portrays Israel as a country "deserted by its friends," worried over the "numerically superior combined Arab armies" and extremely touchy over "the defence of its long maritime borders" and its Mediterranean borders where "more than 90 per cent of Israel's population and industrial structure" was located at the time of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The article also tries to shift the blame on to the U.S. Defence Department's judgement in ordering the Liberty to the Middle East while the Israelis were too much worried over its naval defences, and seeks, albeit indirectly, to project the image of a Tel Aviv

leadership which could easily have made the mistake of ordering the attack on the Liberty.

## The assault

On the fateful afternoon of June 8, 1967, the second day of the Arab-Israeli war, the Liberty was in international waters off the Egyptian-Israeli coast on a mission of monitoring the battle. Precisely at 2 p.m. three Israeli jets swooped down over the ship and let off devastating salvos of rocket fire at the unsuspecting vessel. They were soon joined by several more high-performance Israeli bombers and three torpedo boats and the assault on the Liberty was on in full force for over 40 minutes. The ship's anti-aircraft guns were put out of action by the first wave of the Israeli assault and soon the ship was ablaze. The captain issued abandon-the-ship orders and as the crewmen managed to lower three life rafts—the only ones which survived the attack—Israeli machinegun fire shot them out.

At 3:15 p.m.—75 minutes after the deadly assault began—the Israeli torpedo boats followed the jets, which had left some 20 minutes earlier. The Liberty was left alone, in flames, dead in the water and sinking. At 4:15 p.m. the torpedo boats returned to ask "do you need help?", only to be greeted with profanity. By then rescue aircraft from the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean arrived to help the Liberty and the ship slowly limped to dock at Malta.

As the ship's officers took count of the casualties it became evident that it was one of the worst peacetime disasters in then recent U.S. history—thirty-four U.S. servicemen were dead or dying and 171 wounded from a crew of 294.

## Cover-up campaign

Subsequent events prove that the U.S. government itself launched a cover-up campaign for Israel. The survivors of the assault were asked not to discuss the attack with anyone—not even to members of their own family. They were told a court of inquiry would take their testimony. However, the court inquiries and hearings were limited, says James Ennes, who was officer-on-deck of the Liberty at the time of the attack and who himself was wounded and underwent treatment for over one year.

"My sworn statement as officer-on-deck was read to the court, but was not accepted as evidence or entered into official record," writes Mr. Ennes in his book "Assault on Liberty." "Vital deck logs were rewritten and most references to (Israeli) reconnaissance were deleted."

The court subsequently came out with a 707-page report on the

assault on the Liberty but only a 28-page watered-down excerpt reached the public eye, the rest classified as "top secret."

Then came the clinch. The administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that the Israeli assault was "an understandable error of mistaken identity," and accepted the Israeli "apology" for the "tragic mistake."

Ignoring the crewmen's sworn testimony that the ship was under intense attack for 75 minutes, Washington announced that the assault lasted only six minutes and all firing was ceased when the Israeli torpedo boats drew close enough to take note of the U.S. flag flying over the Liberty. The announcement overlooked the fact that Israeli jets started delivering their deadly blows to the ship at 2 p.m. and it was not until 24 minutes later that torpedo boats neared the vessel.

Washington also accepted the Israeli contention that the USS Liberty was mistaken for the Egyptian freighter Al Quseir—a 40-year-old horse carrier then docked at Alexandria awaiting its final voyage to the scrap yard. However, the U.S. announcement was for the public ears, for the administration knew that the Liberty was identified positively one day before the attack and was under constant surveillance by the Israelis.

## Advance 'warning'

Early in the afternoon of June 7, 1967, a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) observer attached to the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv had informed his superiors in McLean, Virginia, that the Israelis had decided to sink the Liberty if it came near the Arab-Israeli war zone, according to Stephen Green's book "Taking Sides."

The CIA did take the warning seriously and in turn the U.S. Defence Department issued an order that the Liberty be moved at least 100 miles from the embattled zone, according to a top secret message reproduced in the court of inquiry.

In "one of the most incredible failures of communications in the history of the U.S. Defence Department," the message failed to reach the Liberty. Instead of reaching the London headquarters of the U.S. navy, which would have directed it to the Liberty, the message found its way to the Philippines Islands. Not once, but twice, according to testimonies and exhibits received by the court of inquiry.

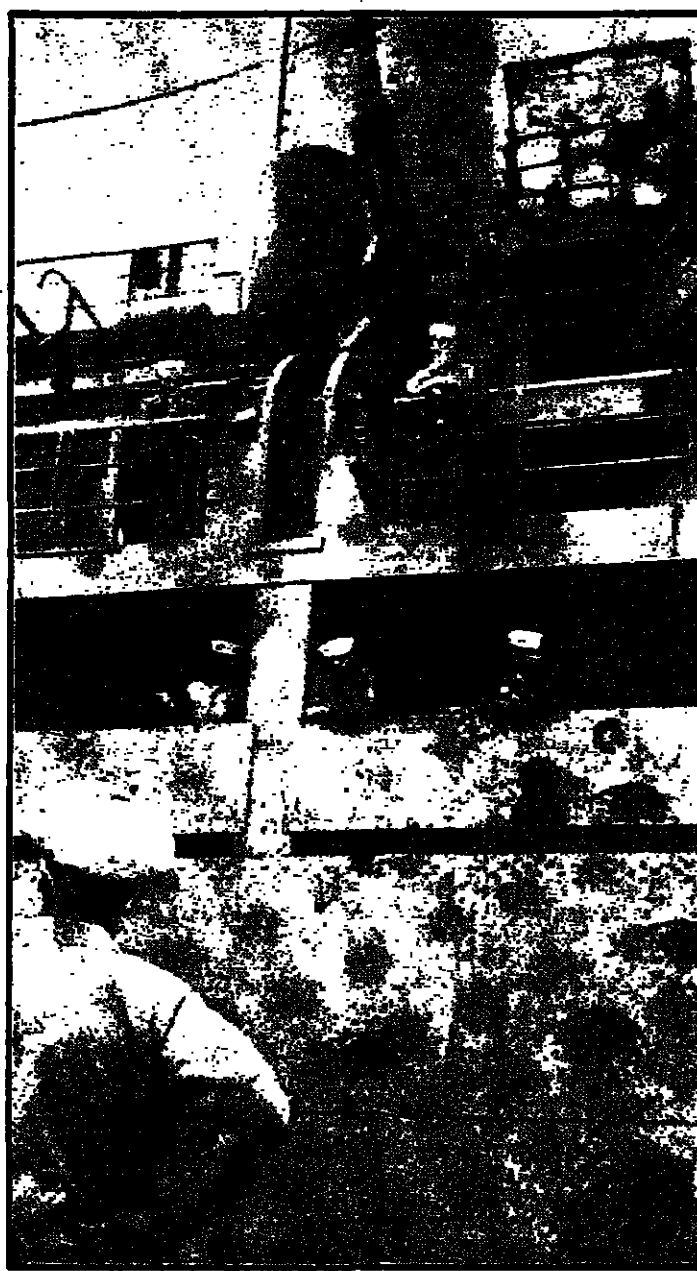
Follow-up messages disappeared into oblivion and mystery surrounds a "Top Secret—Most Urgent" cautionary note to the Liberty by the deputy joint chief of staff, urging the ship to be alert against any possible attack.

## Why the Israeli wrath

What was the Liberty doing in the Middle East to attract the Israeli wrath?

The Liberty was a spy ship equipped with sophisticated radio eavesdropping equipment, and as the second Arab-Israeli war erupted on June 5, 1967, it was ordered to the region so that it could monitor radio communications and observe the course of the war.

Why were the Israelis sensitive about the ship nearing the war zone? Israeli plans were under way to invade Syria's Golan Heights, and General David Eliazar had assembled his troops near



The USS Liberty, riddled by Israeli rockets and gunfire, limps to dock at Malta. (Courtesy The Link magazine)

Lake Tiberias to launch the assault, set to begin at 11:30 a.m. on June 8, 1967. The Israeli plan to invade the Golan had drawn heavy U.S. opposition, and if the plan was to succeed it had to be carried out quickly and in secret before the U.S. could interfere, Tel Aviv reckoned.

But to have the Liberty, its listening equipment, within earshot of radio communications from the Golan invasion site posed an obstacle to the Israelis, especially that they learnt, probably through their agents in Spain, that the ship had stopped overnight at the U.S. naval base in Rota en route to the Gaza and would reach the war zone hours before the Golan invasion began.

According to documents in the Middle East file of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library, then Secretary of State Dean Rusk learned of the invasion plan more than a day ahead, possibly from the Liberty's monitoring devices while the ship was on its way to the Middle East. The same documents say that Mr. Rusk had cabled Israeli leaders, demanding that they abandon the plan to invade the Golan. While the Israelis chose to ignore Mr. Rusk, they did not ignore the Liberty.

## Electronic 'intelligence'

Another theory to the Israeli hostility towards the Liberty, according to an article carried by the Penthouse magazine in 1976, was that the presence of the ship would have impeded an Israeli electronic intelligence effort to "manipulate" phone conversations between Jordan and Egypt during

Some of the officers on deck in swim suit waved to the Israeli pilots who waved back before heading back towards the shore.

And then came the assault.

"We were under intense fire, first by Israeli supersonic Mirage jets that momentarily knocked out our four puny 50-calibre machine guns and disabled all radio antennas," Mr. Ennes recounts, "then by slower Israeli Mystere jets that plastered the stack, gun mounts, open bridge and superstructure with an inferno of napalm. Flames were everywhere." "My leg shattered from the impact of fragments from an Israeli rocket."

When the ship's radiomen tried to call for help they found that the ship's regular radio frequencies were jammed, presumably by equipment operated by the attacking jets. It was not before 10 minutes that they could find an unjammed frequency and relay a message to U.S. naval forces operating near Cyprus, some 300 miles away.

Saratoga, one of the U.S. Sixth Fleet carriers, picked up the message and its captain started launching aircraft even as he relayed the message to his seniors.

## Help recalled

Then came a twist of irony. Just before the Saratoga planes were out of sight heading towards the Liberty they were recalled by orders from Washington. Saratoga's officers recall their frustration as they could hear their colleague's distress calls from the Liberty, but at the same time having to turn their planes back to the carrier.

"We may never know the reason," writes Mr. Ennes, "but we do know that the aircraft which might have arrived in time to save American lives were recalled."

"A radioman who relayed the order reports that it was given personally by Defence Secretary (Robert) McNamara," according to Mr. Ennes. "Even a fly-over was forbidden while officials in Washington mulled over the fate of the USS Liberty."

Meanwhile back at the Liberty, U.S. servicemen were battling death. One torpedo made a direct hit on the ship's cryptographic spaces where it killed 25 men instantly and trapped at least 50 more in the flooded compartment. Another passed so close ahead of the ship that it vanished under the point of the bow, "sounding like a motorboat" to Petty Officer Rick Aimeetti, who stood, astonished and puzzled, by the forecastle. The torpedomen circled the ship at close range, machine-gunning anyone who came on deck.

As the last torpedo boat left at 3:20, the Liberty was a burning hulk and not a sophisticated intelligence gathering ship as it was two hours earlier.

Almost two hours after receiving the Liberty's distress call, Washington gave permission to the Sixth Fleet to come to the ship's aid. For a second time that day rescue aircraft headed towards the Liberty and almost simultaneously the Israelis informed the U.S. naval attaché in Tel Aviv that Israeli aircraft "erroneously attacked maybe a U.S. ship" and offered "abject apologies."

The rescue aircraft reached the Liberty and in a short while several U.S. ships in the vicinity also arrived to help the crippled mass to make it to Malta. The Liberty had a 40-foot hole on its side along with 821 rocket and machine gun holes, and it was a miracle it did not go down, in which case the

true facet of the affair would have never come to surface.

## Press 'blanket'

The crewmen were told they would be free to talk to the press once the inquiry was over. "But this was not to be," Mr. Ennes writes. When the press "blanket" was lifted the crewmen were advised that all that was to be said about the affair was said in the court of inquiry and no-one should contradict the findings of the court.

However, when the court came out with its report the crewmen were shocked to note that vital facts such as the radios were jammed, the life rafts were shot out, napalm was used and it was not until two-and-a-half hours after the attack the first sign of help arrived were left out from the court's excerpt on the incident.

"No-one was allowed to describe the close-range reconnaissance that preceded the attack," according to Mr. Ennes. "Particularly forbidden was any description of the American flag or the steady breeze that displayed the flag clearly for the Israeli pilots to see."

The Johnson administration's public portrayal of the Israeli assault was that it was "a brief, spontaneous, casual mistake,"—a story they knew to be untrue," Mr. Ennes writes.

He quotes George Christian, President Johnson's press secretary, as saying "there was considerable scepticism in the White House that the attack was accidental," and "an accident of this magnitude was too much to swallow."

While the watered-down version of the court of inquiry report, which seemed as good as an Israeli defence argument, was left for the public eye, U.S. officials complained bitterly, but privately, to Israel that the Liberty was indeed identified positively before the attack. Mr. Rusk officially told Tel Aviv that the assault was "quite literally incomprehensible (and) must be condemned as an act of military recklessness reflecting wanton disregard for human life."

## Contentions countered

The Israeli government churned out a fascinating series of "rebuttals" and "official versions" of the affair, but each contradicting the other and easily disproven.

Tel Aviv contended that the Liberty was operating "too close to the shore in a time of war." The ship's survivors point out that the vessel was never less than 13 miles from the nearest land—a distance allowed under international law which permits a neutral nation to dispatch an observer ship into international waters adjacent to an area of hostilities.

Israel also argued that it had asked the U.S. for information on any American ships in the region prior to the time of the attack and Washington replied in negative. But the State Department could not find any trace of such an inquiry.

The town of Al Arish on the Israeli-Egyptian border was shelled from the sea during the morning of June 8, the Israelis said, and their torpedo boats were searching for the ship which could have been responsible for the shelling. This argument is rejected by the Liberty's survivors who say it was not actual fact that Al Arish was shelled. Subsequent inquiries

proved that Al Arish was not shelled, but it was an Egyptian ammunition dump exploding. However, Al Arish was not Israeli territory either. The survivors say that the story about the shelling was an Israeli propaganda stunt to explain the presence of Israeli torpedo boats in the area.

Israel also said that torpedo boats investigating the "shelling" detected the Liberty in radar at 1:41 p.m. on June 8, from a distance of 17 miles and mistakenly calculating its speed as 30 knots which was interpreted as the possible speed of an enemy ship fleeing the area after shelling Al Arish.

The Liberty's crewmen reject the Israeli story as a total physical impossibility saying that it was not possible for the torpedo boats to detect the ship anywhere beyond a maximum of 16 miles and even at that, the speed of the Liberty was more than five knots. The "30-knot miscalculation" appeared to be "a fabrication invented to shift the blame from Israeli headquarters which did plan and direct the attack."

Israel further argued that the attacking planes made "one run" over the ship and "failing to find any identification" commenced the assault. The survivors counter this argument by pointing out that had the aircraft made "one run" over the ship it is inconceivable that the American flag went unnoticed. Moreover, the Liberty's radiomen overheard Israeli pilots reporting to their headquarters that the ship was flying an American flag.

Another Israeli contention was that as soon as an attacking pilot reported seeing the letters "CPR-5" or "GPR-5" on the ship's hull the attack was terminated after 14 minutes on the assumption that the vessel was Soviet.

The survivors point out that the Israeli argument that the attacking pilots thought the vessel was Soviet cannot be genuine for the simple reason that Soviet vessels do not carry English identification marks. The Israeli contention was aimed at creating a feeling that the pilots or their headquarters did not have the slightest doubt that the ship could have been American, the survivors say.

Furthermore, the attack was not terminated after minutes as the Israelis claim, the crewmen say. The attacking jets and torpedo boats left only after causing as much damage and material damages as they could, and presumably after intercepting messages from U.S. Sixth Fleet ships that help was on its way to the Liberty.

The Israeli jets topped the attacks only when the torpedo boats were close enough to the Liberty to have been endangered by the attacking aircraft, the crewmen say.

Israel also came up with another contention that the Liberty was mistaken for the Egyptian Al Quseir, "which could have been responsible for the Al Arish shelling."

The contention is easily rejected by the Liberty's crewmen. There had been no similar physical features between Al Quseir and the Liberty, they point out. Furthermore, the Israeli argument contradicts the "30-knot miscalculation" because Al Quseir was incapable of doing 30 knots—a fact the Israelis were well aware of.

The second part of this article will be published in Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times

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Sheffield Wednesday beats Liverpool

## Tottenham retains lead in English soccer league

LONDON (R) — High-flying Tottenham retained their tenuous grip at the top of the English soccer first division on goal difference Saturday, despite looking as ill at ease as a nervous air traveller against Luton.

But the jittery Londoners, uncomfortable in their role as league leaders, finally landed safely when Mark Falco and Graham Roberts scored two late goals to earn them a 4-2 home win.

Near-neighbours Arsenal, who seldom travel well, were also far from composed at lowly Coventry, goals from Tony Woodcock and Paul Mariner in the last five minutes giving them a slender 2-1 win to keep them alongside Tottenham on 16 points.

But Arsenal surrendered second place to Nottingham Forest, who completed a smooth 3-1 home win over Norwich to jump above the gunners.

The pace-setters are being chased by a posse of three clubs on the 14 point mark — Manchester United, Everton, and Sheffield Wednesday, who scored a stunning 2-0 win against Liverpool at Anfield.

United won 2-1 away from home against West Bromwich while Everton were involved in a nine-goal thriller at Watford, eventually squeezing home 5-4.

Everton and Watford certainly seem to enjoy meeting one another — last season they shared eight goals in the corresponding fixture.

Tottenham, still without the injured Glenn Hoddle and Argentine Ossie Ardiles, fell behind

after just three minutes when slack marking allowed David Moss to shoot Luton ahead.

And although Mike Hazard, who is proving a more than adequate deputy for Hoddle, equalised midway through the first half, Frankie Bunn restored Luton's lead after 28 minutes.

Bunn could have scored a hat-trick before the interval as the Tottenham defence threatened to crack open, and he used those misdeeds to level the game at 1-1.

Tottenham, looking anything but title prospects, continued to struggle in the second half before Falco, with his 10th goal of the season, and Roberts intervened.

Arsenal, who hit the woodwork three times against Coventry, also had to stage a great escape late in the game after trailing to a 50th minute Terry Gibson goal.

But England striker Woodcock and Mariner struck in the 85th and 89th minutes to give veteran goalkeeper Pat Jennings a victory on his 750th league appearance.

Liverpool's eccentric goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was less fortunate. The popular Zimbabwean, who likes to bring a touch of circus to football, presented Sheffield Wednesday with their eighth minute opener when he raced out of the penalty area to

collect a loose ball. Grobbelaar tried to clear the danger but merely contrived to pass the ball straight to the feet of striker Imre Varadi who gratefully accepted the offering.

Wednesday, who are evidently relishing their return to the top flight, secured a famous victory when Gary Shelton added the second in the 67th minute.

Three other players who did not enjoy the happiest of afternoons were Everton's Terry Curren, sent off in the last minute at Watford, and Aston Villa's Peter Withe and Colin Gibson, who received their marching orders in the 3-1 defeat at Ipswich.

There was no change at the top of the Scottish Premier League, Aberdeen, Rangers and Celtic all winning with varying degrees of difficulty.

Champions Aberdeen had to endure a goalless first-half at home to Hearts before running out 4-0 winners, new striker Frank McDougall scoring twice.

### Karpov takes 3-0 lead

MOSCOW (R) — World chess champion Anatoly Karpov took a commanding 3-0 lead in his title defence Saturday when challenger Garry Kasparov resigned their seventh game.

The game had been adjourned Friday with Karpov in a powerful position which appeared certain to guarantee him victory. Kasparov's resignation was announced Saturday before play was due to resume.



### Hassan congratulates squash team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday congratulated the national Jordanian squash team for its successes in the First Arab Youth Squash Championship held in Bahrain last week. Prince Hassan met with the

team members at his office and praised their efforts and their high-level training. The team members presented to Prince Hassan the two cups which they won at the tournament. Jordan won the singles and team titles at the championship.

### S.Korea opens '88 Olympics stadium

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Saturday opened a \$61 million main stadium for the 1988 Olympic Games with communist delegates among those watching a two-hour spectacle staged by 10,000 dancers, gymnasts and musicians.

Delegates from communist countries China, Hungary, Romania and East Germany watched the opening ceremonies although three Soviet sports officials invited by Seoul failed to attend.

Thousands of doves and balloons were released to a trumpet fanfare as International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch and South

Korean President Chun Doo Hwan officially opened the Chamsil stadium.

The huge 100,000-capacity arena on the outskirts of Seoul will be used for the 1986 Asian Games and South Korea will later become the first developing nation to play host to the Olympics.

Seoul does not have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union or other communist countries and Samaranch has acknowledged that this could mean political problems.

The IOC chief said on arrival Friday that he was optimistic the Soviet Union would take part in

the Seoul Games although Soviet sports leaders he met in Moscow last week did not give a firm indication of this.

The Seoul Olympics will cost an estimated three billion dollars, about seven times as much as the Los Angeles games, according to the organisers.

But the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee hopes to make a profit on the games from the sale of television rights, licensing of the Seoul Olympic emblem and mascots, commemorative coins, lotteries and entry tickets for spectators.

## Sweden books ticket to Davis Cup final

BAASTAD, Sweden (R) — Sweden gained a place in their second successive Davis Cup tennis final after winning the doubles to take an unassailable 3-0 lead over Czechoslovakia in their world group semifinal here Saturday.

Anders Jarryd and Stefan Edberg repeated Henrik Sundstrom's feat in Friday's singles by clawing back from the brink of defeat to beat Tomas Smid and Pavel Slozil 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 10-8, 6-2.

Sundstrom pulled off a stunning five-set victory over Ivan Lendl on the Czechoslovak's favourite clay surface, fighting back from two sets down and 0-3 in the third. Swedish number one Mats Wilander beat Smid 7-5, 7-5, 6-2.

"It's absolutely unbelievable," an exuberant Edberg said. "Henrik did the impossible yesterday, now we did it."

Sunday's reverse singles, in which Wilander meets Lendl and Sundstrom plays Smid, become a mere formality. The matches will be shortened to three sets.

Sweden, who lost 3-2 to Australia in last year's final, will play either the United States or Australia in the final in Sweden from December 28 to 30.

The United States Friday established a commanding 2-0 lead over champions Australia in the other semifinal.

Czechoslovakia's non-playing captain Jan Kodes said he was disappointed to have lost to Sweden so quickly.

"We started well in the doubles but couldn't finish the job properly," he said, a verdict which might equally have applied to Lendl's defeat Friday.

Jarryd and Edberg attributed Saturday's victory partly to mid-match nerves on the part of Slozil, who was implacable in the first two sets which Czechoslovakia won 6-2, 7-5.

Sweden bounced back to take the third set 6-1 but lost their impetus in the fourth, letting the Czechoslovaks establish a 5-2 lead before Edberg held his serve to make it 5-3.

Slozil, who had been the most consistent server throughout the match, suddenly faltered, serving his first double fault and hitting a series of wild shots to let Sweden break back.

"Slozil lost his nerve," Edberg said afterwards.

Jarryd and Edberg made good use of their unexpected reprieve and games went with serve until 8-8, when Slozil again looked hesitant and the Swedes made the vital break.

Jarryd, at 23 the oldest player in the Swedish team, held his serve to take the set 10-8.

In the second game of the final set, Edberg saved three break points on his serve and from then on the Swedes were unstoppable, taking the set 6-2.

Smid, who served erratically and made many unforced errors, said if the United States qualify, Sweden would have a chance of beating them if the final were played on clay.

### WBC urges Hagler to observe 12-round rule

DALLAS (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) will refuse to sanction the world middleweight title bout between undisputed champion Marvin Hagler and Mustafa Hamsho in New York on October 19 unless the fight is reduced from 15 to 12 rounds.

In a statement released at its U.S. office here Friday, the WBC stopped short of saying it would strip American Hagler of his title if he defied its 12-round rule. But WBC spokesman Steve Crosson told Reuters "the possibility exists."

"If he loses the fight, even though we have not sanctioned it, he loses the title," Crosson said. In such an eventuality, he added, Syria's Hamsho would not be recognised as the WBC champion and the title would be declared vacant.

In its statement, the WBC said: "The WBC has again urged Mr. Hagler to respect the 12-round rule of the organisation... the purpose of the rule is to prevent extreme punishment in the latter rounds of title bouts."

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Ground floor apartment with garden. Consists of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, salon, kitchen and two verandas, with central heating and telephone.

Call on location: Between 4th and 5th Circles near Hazem, Nusseibeh's building. Tel: 671730, or 672329.

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Location: Shmeisani, near Wadi Saqra Circle, behind Shmeisani library. Tel: 661770, Amman.

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Location: Jabal Amman, 3rd and 4th Circle.

Please call 41604

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Three bedrooms, salon, dining room, veranda, two bathrooms, central heating, first floor.

Location: Shmeisani, behind Commodore Hotel. Please call tel. 24377

## RESULTS OF HORSE RACES FRIDAY SEPT. 28, 1984

### FIRST RACE:

For beginners  
Distance: 1,400 metres  
Time: 1 minute 49 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Zaidan	Mohammad Dwaihy
2ND:	J. El Mshakar	A. El Sattar Matar
3RD:	Jarrah	Naief El Faiez

### SECOND RACE:

For third class horses  
Distance: 1,600 metres  
Time: 2 minutes 02 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	El Hamadany	Jamal Mohammad El Zabin
2ND:	Fraijih	Mohammad Ahmad Kasim
3RD:	Kawakib	Oudih El Kaisy

### THIRD RACE:

For beginners  
Distance: 1,400 metres  
Time: 1 minute 43 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Husam	Faisal Awad El Faiez
2ND:	Koban	Izzat Ghandour
3RD:	Shams Amman	Samy Haddadin

### FOURTH RACE:

For third class horses  
Distance: 1,600 metres  
Time: 1 minute 53 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	A. Samra	Samy Haddadin
2ND:	Wadah	Samy Haddadin
3RD:	Amir El Midan	Ghaleb Haddadin

### FIFTH RACE:

For third and second class horses  
Distance: 1,400 metres  
Time: 1 minute 38 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	El Badia'a	H.R.H. Princess Badia'a Al Hassan
2ND:	Wisam	A. El Latif El Hadid
3RD:	El Hmaly	H.H. Late Sharif Naser Ibn Jamil Stables

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#### THE EMBASSY

#### OF BRAZIL

The Embassy of Brazil announces that the new address of its chancery as from Oct. 1, 1984 is:

Jabal Amman - Third Circle  
Opposite Ministry of Tourism  
Telephone 42169, 42183  
Telex 23827 'BRASEMB'  
P.O. Box 5497 - Amman

OFFICE HOURS from MONDAY to THURSDAY and SATURDAY 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



#### Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 44092-44260

POLICE ACADEMY  
(Colour)

Tel: 677420  
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

#### Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 22117

BE-AABROO  
(Colour)  
"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

#### Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 25155

ROMANCING THE STONE

"Colour"  
3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

#### Cinema ZAHARAN

Tel: 23171

THE BARE FACTS

(Colour)  
Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

#### Cinema OPERA

THE MAID

(Colour)  
"Arabic Film"  
Abdali, behind ALIA offices

#### Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- LAND ON FIRE  
2-JACKY SHAN  
THE DRAGON  
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

#### Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

LOVERS CALL  
"Indian Film"  
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

# Dollar edges higher

NEW YORK (R) — The dollar closed stronger after edging higher throughout most of the day Friday in quiet trading at the end of the quarter, with many New York participants absent because of the Jewish New Year holiday.

Most of its forward impetus was provided by a stronger than expected 0.5 per cent rise in U.S. leading indicators in August. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige described the index gain as signalling a desirable slowdown in economic growth.

The dollar ended at 3.0680/720 marks, sharply above 3.0270/310 here overnight.

The currency's advance, trimming slightly towards the close, took place in the absence of central bank intervention and after Thursday's Federal Reserve (Fed) data gave evidence that the Fed had not eased monetary policy further, dealers said.

But a slide in the federal funds rate, the key measure of the cost of overnight interbank funds, was partly responsible for light profit taking in the dollar towards the end of the day.

The Fed funds rate was quoted at 10-1/4 per cent in late trading after fluctuations between 11-1/2 per cent and 10-1/4.

"Even on a quiet day like this, the dollar's natural tendency is to drift upwards," said one money trader.

He said Thursday's general move in U.S. bank prime rates to the 12-1/4 per cent level from 13 per cent is already fully discounted by the market and there are growing doubts about whether rates will decline much further.

"A cut in discount rate from nine per cent might shake confidence in the dollar at these levels," the trader said.

News that the U.S. trade deficit contracted to \$9.86 billion in

August from \$14.06 billion the previous month gave underlying support to the dollar, dealers said.

A rise in yields on treasury securities and firmer Eurodollar deposit rates also helped strengthen the currency.

The dollar ended firmer at 2.5300/50 Swiss francs against 2.5000/30 overnight, at 246.65/75 yen against 245.00/10 and at 13171/74 Canadian dollars compared with 13165/68. Sterling shed around one cent to \$1.2350/65.

Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. calculated the trade weighted value of the dollar at noon as 28.2 per cent above 1980-82 levels.

In London the dollar rallied on currency markets Friday fortified by the fresh economic data which eased fears among some experts that the United States economy was heading for a recession next year.

Dealers said the dollar gained over three pence to reach a day's high of 3.0580 German marks. It rose from 3.0245 marks in London.

On the European exchanges the U.S. currency had appeared to have run out of steam after Thursday's news of further prime interest rate cuts by leading U.S. banks and official hints that they could be cut further.

In Frankfurt the dollar was officially fixed at 3.0252 marks without any selling by the West German Bundesbank (Central Bank), higher than Thursday night's Frankfurt closing 3.0137.

But Friday's rally left the dollar little changed compared with its closing level of 3.06 marks here a week ago after the Bundesbank launched a major assault against currency speculators to halt the dollar's rise over the previous two weeks.

# Study shows need to fight soil erosion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Erosion is destroying around 25 billion tons of fertile topsoil in the world each year, undermining food productivity and the global economy, according to a report issued Saturday.

"As demand for food climbs, the world is beginning to mine its soils, converting a renewable resource into a non-renewable one," said the report by Worldwatch Institute, a private study group partly funded by the United Nations.

The authors, Mr. Lester Brown and Mr. Edward Wolf, said the practices that cause erosion, such as intensified cropping and marginal land ploughing, often led to short-term production gains, creating an illusion of progress and a false sense of security.

They contrasted the lack of data on soil erosion with the careful annual accounting of world oil reserves and production.

Topsoil extended to an average depth of 15 to 25 centimetres over most of the earth's surface and studies in the United States compared that for each 2.5 centimetres lost, average yields dropped six per cent, the report said.

The Soviet Union was losing even more topsoil than the United States, as efforts to reduce massive Soviet grain imports forced the Russians to plough marginal lands and reduce dryland fallow, it added.

China and India, other major food producers, were also suffering massive losses.

"So much soil from the Asian mainland blows over the Pacific Ocean that scientists taking air samples at the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii can now tell when spring ploughing starts in north China," Mr. Brown told a United Nations seminar in Norway earlier this month.

But the social effects of soil erosion will be felt first in Africa, which already has the world's worst hunger problems, according to Mr. Brown.

"Africa's record population growth and rampant soil erosion ensure that the continent will be at the forefront of this unfolding deterioration. What is at stake is not merely the degradation of the soil but of life itself," he said.

Alone among African countries, Kenya was singled out for praise for its soil conservation programme, including tree planting and drain digging which the report called a model for the Third World.

# Abu Dhabi decides on new oil pipeline

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi has decided in principle to go ahead with construction of a pipeline from its onshore oilfields to Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman, a move which would allow its oil exports to bypass the vulnerable Strait of Hormuz, financial sources said Friday.

All oil exports from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are now carried by oil tankers through the strait at the mouth of the Gulf, which Iran has threatened to block if its own oil shipments are halted in the four-year-old war with Iraq.

The 122 centimetre pipeline would be able to carry all the output of Abu Dhabi's onshore oil fields to Fujairah from Habshan in Abu Dhabi emirate.

These fields, whose output is now running at less than 500,000 barrels per day (b/d), can produce up to 750,000 b/d.

The sources said only financing considerations had held up a start of construction on the 365 kilometre pipeline, which will cost several hundred million dollars.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) might have to resort to external financing for the project, they said.

Abu Dhabi, which accounts for 800,000 b/d of the UAE's 1.1 million b/d OPEC quota, has resorted to external finance once before for a major energy project.

In September last year, the Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (Adgas) signed a loan agreement with international banks to borrow \$500 million loan for eight years.

Adgas is 51 per cent owned by ADNOC, with the remainder held by foreign oil companies.

The sources said the pipeline project might be a joint venture between ADNOC and engineering companies, possibly including Bechtel Corporation of the United States which has carried out studies on the pipeline's feasibility.

Oil and shipping experts said Habshan, in the centre of the big Bab oilfield, is already linked by pipeline to all other onshore fields and the project would thus require only minor modification to the existing pipeline system.

Exports from Abu Dhabi's onshore fields are currently loaded on to tankers at Jebel Dhiana, some 150 kilometres west of Abu Dhabi city.

The new project is also likely to require storage for at least one million barrels of oil at Fujairah and construction of a single buoy mooring terminal where tankers would load the oil.

Some preliminary work has apparently started on the storage tanks in Fujairah.

The sources said Fujairah is also likely to benefit from a separate project to deepen the shipping channels to Fujairah harbour and improve the port facilities, at an estimated cost of \$30 million.

Worries about the safety of shipping in the Gulf have brought a windfall for the privately-run port at Fujairah, where container and cargo traffic has increased sharply over the last year.

# West Europeans pledge more aid, trade with C. American countries

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (R) — Twelve Western European nations, making their first high-level venture into Central American affairs, have agreed Saturday to step up trade and economic assistance to the region and ignored U.S. pressure to exclude Nicaragua.

The pledge to tighten economic and political cooperation came at the end of a two-day meeting of foreign ministers from Spain, Portugal and the 10-member European Community (EC) with their colleagues from five Central American states and the four countries of the "Contadora Group."

"With this conference, the participants initiated a new form of political and economic dialogue between Europe and Central America," said the draft of a final

communiqué due to be formally issued Sunday.

Officials involved in drafting the document said the Europeans had shrugged off pressure from the United States to exclude leftist-ruled Nicaragua from any accord on aid and trade between the European Community and the Central Americans.

U.S. attempts to influence the outcome of the San Jose meeting, which discussed matters traditionally dominated by Washington, were reflected in a letter sent by Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz to the foreign ministers earlier this month.

A copy of the letter, marked confidential, was leaked to correspondents here and confirmed as authentic by conference delegates.

It said: "your meeting in San Jose has the potential to contribute significantly to the economic and democratic political development of the region. I understand the community will discuss possibilities for closer economic cooperation and perhaps begin negotiating a framework agreement..."

"We strongly urge, however, that such region to region assistance does not lead to increased economic aid or any political support for the Sandinistas," it added.

Washington sees the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua as the source of most trouble in Central America, where three out of five countries are now fighting insurgencies.

The United States helped raise an insurgent army, now estimated to total around 15,000, which is fighting Nicaraguan forces from

bases in Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south.

The conference's final communiqué, however, studiously avoided any reference to Nicaragua or its leaders and instead made frequent references to cooperation between the two regions.

It said the meeting had agreed to begin talks as soon as possible on the framework of a region-to-region accord.

"The ministers agreed to arrange for further meetings in regular intervals as part of this dialogue. 'The level of the meetings — (cabinet) ministers or officials — will be fixed in the light of the situation,' the draft of the communiqué said.

It added the European Community would provide technical and financial assistance, in particular for agricultural, agro-industrial and rural projects.

No figures were given and diplomats said any European assistance, either bilateral or multilateral, would be small in comparison with the vast requirements of a region whose frail, commodity-based economies have been badly hit by falling export prices and rising interest rates on its foreign debt of more than \$10 billion.

# Argentina to repay \$200m

NEW YORK (R) Argentina agreed Friday night to pay back debts of \$200 million to its commercial bank creditors in return for more time to repay a \$750 million loan, Citibank said.

The accord was a compromise between the government of President Raul Alfonsín, which was unwilling to draw on its meagre reserves, and the banks, which sought even larger repayments.

The two sides also agreed to start talks in mid-October on the \$3 to \$5 billion in new loans that Argentina, which already owes \$45 billion, will need to see it through until the end of 1985.

Citibank said the Argentine government asserted that it was essential to work together with its 320 creditor banks and take necessary steps to ensure that new loans could be raised.

Bankers said they hoped the pledge would help restore confidence in Argentina which has refused to keep up payments and submit to austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because of labour union opposition.

# W. German car industry faces uncertain future

BADEN-BADEN, West Germany (R) — The West German car industry could suffer if other European nations do not cooperate on environmental controls, the industry association VDA has said.

The cloud on the horizon is what could happen when new regulations come into force starting in 1988, under which German cars will be fitted to use lead-free petrol.

If France, Italy and Britain do not require the supply of lead-free petrol in filling stations, VDA officials see German producers at risk.

Meanwhile, exports to the U.S. are running at more than double last year's rate, with 60,000 extra vehicles shipped in the first seven months this year partly making up for a 150,000 sales drop in Europe in the same period.

From Jan. 1, 1989, all new motor vehicles in Germany must have catalytic converters for use with lead-free petrol. New vehicles with engine capacities above two litres will be required to comply with the new regulations one year earlier.

About half of Germany's 272 state-owned petrol stations will be offering lead-free petrol by the end of 1985, West German Transport Minister Werner Dollinger said last week.

Earlier Friday luxury carmaker Porsche announced that profits in the financial year ended July 31, 1984 were above the previous year's 69.5 million marks (\$22.8 million) despite the strike, although it gave no figures.

Daimler-Benz announced last week it made an unspecified first half net profit despite the labour dispute, while BMW said Friday more of its cars have been registered in Germany in the first eight months this year than in the same period 1983.

# Nigerian oil output rises

ROTTERDAM (R) — Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil producer, whose output slumped to below one million barrels a day (b/d) in August due to a world glut, is now producing close to 1.35 million b/d, European oil experts said Friday.

Nigeria's OPEC partners agreed last July to let the financially hard-pressed West African nation exceed its 1.3 million b/d quota, raising its ceiling up to a maximum of 1.45 million b/d in September.

The sources, closely involved in Nigerian business, said although output had risen as the world oil market recovered from its July slump, 1.45 million b/d was out of reach this month.

# Rowland sustains hopes for Harrods demerger

LONDON (R) — Entrepreneur Roland "Tiny" Rowland won a crucial shareholders' vote Saturday to sustain his hopes of hiving off the prestigious London store Harrods from the House of Fraser, Britain's largest department store chain.

Rowland, chief executive of the Loro multinational trading and mining conglomerate, won the backing of Fraser shareholders for a resolution requiring the group's board to do nothing that might interfere with an eventual demerger of Harrods.

His Loro Company, the driving force behind what has become one of Britain's longest-running boardroom battles, insisted on a poll of shareholders on resolutions put to the annual meeting of the Scottish-based group in Glasgow Friday.

A Fraser spokesman said Rowland, whose company owns 29.9 per cent of the group, won back a place on the 14-member board after being voted off on a show of hands at Friday's meeting.

But Rowland failed in a bid to block reelection of Fraser chairman Roland Smith and director

Ernest Sharp, two men who have led the campaign against demerger of the store where Britain's royal family shops. The shareholders also rejected his bid to boost Loro's board representation from two to four.

Loro has been pressing Fraser to hive off Harrods for the past seven years, arguing that the combined stockmarket values of the two companies as separate entities would be considerably more than the market value of Fraser on its own.

The Fraser board has vigorously resisted this proposal. Industry sources say the highly-profitable Harrods store is helping to finance the modernisation of Fraser's much less successful 106 stores elsewhere in Britain.

A Loro attempt to take over Fraser was blocked in 1981 by the government's Monopolies and Mergers Commission which ruled that it would be against the public interest.

The commission is currently investigating a Loro proposal to pack the Fraser board with a dozen of its nominees.

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Harris

"We can't afford a vacation this year, but if we each sell 250 boxes of candy we can win a trip to Camp Littlebeaver."

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CINEE  
INEX  
BLIRME  
INBENG

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LILAC GIANT TAWDRI NUANCE  
Answer: What they were doing on that televised ballet—DANCING ON AIR

**Peanuts**

MA'AM? EXCUSE ME, BUT I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HEAR...

IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU SEE A TEACHER TURN PALE, AND RUN OUT OF THE ROOM...

**Mutt 'n' Jeff**

HM—SMELLS GOOD!

IT'S A RUM CAKE I BAKED!

YOU CAN'T EAT IT FRESH! I'LL PUT IT AWAY UNTIL TOMORROW!

SAY, HOW ABOUT THAT RUM CAKE?

I'LL GET IT!

SOME—HIC—

**Andy Capp**

I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU GOT YOUR GOOD LOOKS—

IS YOUR MOTHER GOOD LOOKING?

NOT BAD, IS SHE, PET? SHE'D BE LIKE BOY GEORGE, IF ONLY SHE LOOKED A BIT MORE FEMININE

TAKE NO NOTICE. SHE BEAT HIM AT DARTS LAST NIGHT

**YOUR DAILY Horoscope** from the Carroll Righter Institute

**FORECAST FOR SUN. SEPTEMBER 30, 1984**

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A day and evening when you and others will want to be cooperative and make satisfactory arrangements with other persons, but a tendency to argue is apt to creep into conversations.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may find it difficult to come to an agreement with a partner today. Make sure you do not sign any papers you're unsure about.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) You find it hard to be as neat as usual today. A co-worker could be annoying you so take time to listen to the other side of the story.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Any plans for entertainment should be studied as to cost, otherwise you will later regret having gone into it.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Make sure that whatever you buy today is exactly what you want, and avoid arguments.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Keep calm in dealing with regular allies today and you can get good results, especially if you are cheerful.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Before you have any repairs done to your home make sure you count the cost well and know who you are dealing with.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study magazines that can help you to make your environment more charming and colorful. Be more optimistic about the future.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to ferret out further information regarding some situation or project that fascinates you. Show courtesy.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A fine pal will gladly go along with your aims, so don't hesitate to contact this person early.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good day to contact a bigwig you know, state your aims and gain the support you need. Be careful in driving today.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you show more interest in what your friends are doing, the relationships can become more exciting to you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan your work activities for the new week so that they please higher-ups more, and they will flow along smoothly.

**IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY...** he or she will have a very glib tongue and will love to hear the sound of his, or her own voice, but has to be taught early to have all the facts straight before voicing comments, and thereby, keep out of a lot of trouble. The mind is good and will do very well at school.

**THE Daily Crossword** by Harvey L. Chew

**ACROSS**

- Graceful horse
- Factotum
- Spotted pitcher
- Carty or Patrocelli
- Root overhangs
- Beery or Webster
- Bosley, Cavett and Beilonte
- Jacks are found on these
- Prayer endings
- Dingo or Francisco
- Brubeck or Kingman
- Consecrate
- Women
- Eye part
- Advocate: suff.
- Pipkin: snapper: abor.
- Carouser
- Have
- Egg-shaped
- Actor Andrews
- Pulpit talks
- Bay State capital
- Jug handles
- Charles or Bolger
- Red as —
- FDN chat site
- See 5A
- Cigar
- Lily genus
- Nimble
- Connery or Casey
- Rip apart
- Drunkard
- Rational
- Thallucigen
- Houttu layer
- Had on
- Merl
- Actor Williams
- Facto
- Cigar
- Remove frost
- Oriental nanny
- Author Victor
- Admits frankly
- 27 Sierra
- Boy
- Worries
- Acclamation
- Office worker
- house in his castle
- Actor O'Neal
- Satad
- Pressage
- Actor Novello
- 39 Ave.
- 44 Smeiled very
- 45 Trade
- 46 — and terminer
- 48 Moon feature
- 49 Parly open
- 50 Cotton bundle
- 51 Col. course
- 52 TV comic
- 53 Backtalk
- 54 Brainstorm
- 55 Acheson or Plunk
- 56 Anglo-Saxon
- 57 Obese
- 58 Gone by

**DOWN**

- Buchwald and Carney
- Tamult
- Pinnacle
- Flamenco: nalls from paws
- "The old —" bachel
- Gardner et al.
- Deighton
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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BENNER POLLE FAWN  
SYNCHRONIZATION  
TIAKIS UNIST GADORE  
ORIN MENTINA  
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## Kremlin leadership changes may be announced Soviet party Central Committee to hold early meeting in October

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party Central Committee is to hold an unusually early plenum in October at which some changes in the Kremlin leadership may be announced, informed Soviet sources said Saturday.

They told Reuters the plenum would be held "within the next two weeks" and be followed by a full session of the Supreme Soviet (parliament), which might also ratify changes in the government headed by Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov.

Officials at the Supreme Soviet confirmed that a session was planned for the beginning of October but refused to give a date or any details of the agenda.

Both gatherings are normally held in November and endorse the economic plan for the coming year. The sources acknowledged they were being held unusually early this year but would not comment on the reasons.

They said it was possible that changes in the ruling 12-man politburo may be approved at the Central Committee meeting, but

Those who support this view say senior Kremlin officials might feel the country needs a strong leader at a time of heightened East-West tension who can promote an image of vigour and decisiveness.

But other diplomats argue strongly there is no precedent for a party leader stepping down voluntarily and that Mr. Chernenko has enough supporters in the party apparatus to help him resist any pressure to resign.

They point to Mr. Chernenko's increased activity in the past two weeks as evidence that he is now back at work and trying to bolster his image as leader and say this makes it even less likely that he would be preparing to hand over power.

Although speculation appeared certain to focus on Mr. Chernenko, some diplomats cautioned Saturday that any leadership changes endorsed at the Central Committee plenum were likely to be much less dramatic.

They said that as the party chief had now been in power for nearly eight months it was possible he

would be in a position to move some of his allies into more senior positions.

One man widely tipped for promotion to full politburo membership is candidate member Vladimir Dolgikh, 59, an industry expert who is known to have close links with the president.

Some diplomats believe the Kremlin leaders may also be planning reshuffles of middle-ranking officials in an attempt to boost flagging economic sectors such as the oil industry and farming.

The forthcoming sessions are also likely to spark new guesswork about the future of Mr. Tikhonov, who is 79.

East European sources say he has expressed a wish to retire, but in recent public appearances he has seemed to be in robust health and looked younger than his years.

Mr. Tikhonov is one of the leading figures in the Kremlin and Western diplomats believe his retirement could cause major shifts in the balance of power in the politburo.



LEAVING CHAD: Two French soldiers wave from the top of their armoured vehicle upon arrival in Moussoro, Sept. 25, from Salal and Arada, northern Chad. French troops have started to move to Moussoro and Biltine in the government controlled southern part of Chad (AP wirephoto)

## N. Korean aid ship runs aground

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean cargo ship carrying cement as part of relief aid for South Korean flood victims ran aground Saturday, the South Korean Red Cross said.

It said it had been told by the North that the vessel went aground in bad weather while sailing in a convoy to the Western coastal port of Incheon in South Korea to unload its cargo early Sunday morning.

The Red Cross said it had declined a northern proposal to resend the cargo by another ship, saying this would be too much trouble for North Korea.

"We deeply regret the accident and only hope there would be no casualties therefrom," it said.

Meanwhile, convoys of North Korean trucks and ships poured

flood relief aid into South Korea Saturday in an unprecedented event between two countries which fought a bloody three-year war ending in 1953.

A convoy of 370 trucks started delivering 7,500 tonnes of rice, 500,000 metres of textiles and 759 boxes of medical supplies at the border village of Panmunjom, 40 kilometres north of Seoul.

Off the west coast, four North Korean ships carrying cement for flood relief work reached the demarcation line and will unload their cargoes early morning at the South Korean port of Incheon.

The supplies for 200,000 flood victims in South Korea earlier this month will also continue arriving Sunday, North Korean Red Cross Chief Paek Nam-Jun told a press

conference attended by North and South Korean and foreign journalists near Panmunjom in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) he hoped the exchange would help to reopen a stalled dialogue between North and South Korea.

Cho Chol-Hwa, secretary-general of South Korea's Red Cross, stepped over the demarcation line to hand the North Koreans a signed guarantee for the safety of about 800 officials, drivers and escorts accompanying the supplies.

Dozens of North and South Korean cameramen jostled each other for vantage points as the first trucks arrived with 50 kilo bags of rice marked: "Made in the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)."

## U.S. delegate not optimistic about changes at Paris-based UNESCO

PARIS (R) — The United States delegate to UNESCO said Friday she was not optimistic that sufficient changes were being made to prevent her country's planned withdrawal in December from the Paris-based United Nations agency.

In a tough speech to the 51-member executive board of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO) the delegate, Jean Gerard, said she was "struck by how little has actually changed" since reform efforts were launched at last May's board meeting.

Recalling that this might be the last board session her country at-

ended, Ms. Gerard said: "I am not optimistic. Neither have we given up. Significant efforts have been made since we last met, and we recognise that. We still have opportunities before us, and we have a little time."

Last December the Reagan administration, accusing UNESCO of mismanagement and politicisation, gave the agency 12 months' notice of its planned withdrawal.

Diplomats said that the current four-week board meeting would probably be crucial in determining whether Washington went ahead with its plan.

The board will discuss proposals for internal reforms by Director

General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, parallel suggestions for changes by a committee set up by the board itself, and a preliminary report on the 1986 to 87 draft programme and budget.

Ms. Gerard said the opportunity was still open to the U.S. to reconsider its withdrawal, which would deprive the agency of a quarter of its budget.

"Many have said that the opportunity is not real, that we have decided to withdraw whatever happens," she said. "That is wrong. It is a convenient way to avoid the responsibility of having to make any effort for some, but it is wrong."

## Pakistan accuses Afghans of bombing

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, after reporting that 32 people were killed when an Afghan plane bombed one of its border villages, has accused Afghanistan of heightening tensions and thus making a solution of the Afghan problem more difficult.

The charge, made in a commentary by the official APP News Agency, followed a strong protest Friday night by Islamabad which said the Afghan aircraft injured 48 people in addition to causing the deaths in the frontier village.

The protest, made to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad, warned Kabul authorities that "such unprovoked and wanton aggression against innocent inhabitants of Pakistan cannot but invite consequences for which the entire responsibility will rest on them," an official statement said.

It said United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de

Cuellar was also being informed of this "serious violation," the latest in a series reported by Pakistan since mid-August.

AFP said the raid on a densely populated commercial centre at Tirmangal village represented "a fresh escalation in the efforts to intimidate and pressure Pakistan."

"These efforts are bound to fail, but they created fresh tensions, vitiated the atmosphere and made the pursuit of a political solution of the Afghan problem more difficult," it added.

The Pakistani and Afghan foreign ministers held a third round of indirect talks in Geneva last month through a U.N. envoy seeking a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Another round of the talks is due early next year.

Pakistani officials Friday said at least 80 people were killed and about 40 injured in a Saturday explosion at the market about eight kilometres from the Afghan

border.

But later they said it was a bombing raid by an Afghan plane resulting in a total of 80 casualties, including 32 dead.

They said the bombing damaged about 200 buildings including health centres and shops.

The scene of the reported bombing is located in Kurram administrative agency in the north-west frontier province where most of the estimated three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan are living.

The region, said to be serving as a supply route for guerrillas fighting the Afghan government, has been frequently reported as a target of Afghan air and artillery raids.

Pakistani authorities earlier reported more than 50 people were killed in the raids during August preceding the Geneva talks. Afghanistan had denied the charges.

## Thousands of Ethiopians face famine

NAIROBI (R) — Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians will die of famine caused by drought unless a major relief operation is mounted immediately, according to private Western aid agencies.

The Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), which groups 26 churches and voluntary agencies, said in an appeal to the United Nations and donor governments Friday that there was a "desperate shortage of relief food" for Ethiopia.

"The purpose of this letter is to express our deep concern at the gravity of the famine in Ethiopia and at the desperate shortage of relief food and to request immediate and extraordinary action by all relief donors to meet the crisis," the appeal said.

The CRDA statement, obtained by Reuters in Nairobi, said Ethiopia, which has suffered from drought for decades, but most acutely since 1974, "has not experienced a food shortage of this magnitude within living memory."

According to "id workers, relief staff and Ethiopian government officials, some six to seven million people are now threatened by

drought which has spread to most of the country's regions since concern was first expressed three years ago.

The CRDA statement was the most alarmist since the Ethiopian government and Western donors took stock of the drought in 1981, saying it would be the worst since drought 10 years ago in which more than 200,000 people died.

The statement said: "There is no doubt that if substantial quantities of food are not forthcoming immediately, hundreds of thousands of people will die."

It added: "This can be avoided. We are aware of the logistical and bureaucratic constraints but we are confident that through concentrated effort by the government, international bodies and voluntary agencies, it can be overcome."

Aid workers in Nairobi said the reference to logistical and bureaucratic hindrances appeared to refer to widespread concern among them that food aid would be held up at Ethiopia's main port of Assab at a time when the government traditionally imports fertiliser and machinery.

The aid workers, some of whom are associated with the CRDA, said they had privately been given assurances by the Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission that food aid would get priority over other imports in coming months at Assab.

Some aid workers said they were also holding private negotiations with secessionist guerrillas in northern Ethiopia, particularly the Eritrean rebels, to ensure that guerrilla activity would not hinder food aid being trucked from the Red Sea port of Massawa to Addis Ababa.

The CRDA report said that the number of people arriving at food aid centres exceeded the supplies of available food aid and that only 100,000 tonnes of food, enough to feed the needy for 30 days, was scheduled to arrive by the end of this year.

"Today 11 of the 14 regions are affected by drought, and death by starvation has occurred in six of these. More than six million people are affected by food shortages," it said.

## Indian army hands over temple to Sikh priests

AMRITSAR, India (R) — The Indian army withdrew from the Golden Temple Saturday and handed over the shrine to Sikh high priests.

Hundreds of people rushed into the complex, Sikhism's holiest shrine, to celebrate the end of 115 days of military occupation.

Since the army stormed the Golden Temple on June 6 to flush out Sikh extremists the shrine had been under the control of the military and entrance to worshippers had been restricted.

The handover, in doubt until the last minute, marked a major breakthrough by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in restoring normal life in India's northern Punjab state, where extremists want a separate Sikh nation.

The settlement was reached after a top aide of Punjab governor K.T. Saharwal visited the Golden Temple in the early hours of Saturday morning to talk with the priests.

The aide, R.V. Subramaniam, told Reuters after the meeting he was happy with the agreement. "We have held detailed discussions with the high priests to

implement the modalities of the prime minister's historical decision to withdraw the army from the complex, announced in a national broadcast earlier in the week," he said.

"It has been agreed that the token presence of the security forces still remaining in the temple proper and all other buildings in the complex will be withdrawn," he added.

Authoritative sources had said recent rounds of talks had stalled over a withdrawal from the temple of Santa Singh, a rival Sikh sect leader whose followers repaired buildings damaged in the June 6 action.

Santa Singh had been excommunicated by the priests for repudiating the buildings against their command.

Eyewitnesses said a high priest had to separate supporters and opponents of Santa Singh from clashing in the temple's precincts Friday.

Police sources said Santa Singh had now agreed to pull out of the temple, after conducting prayers there.

## IAEA censures Israel

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) censured Israel in a move which threatens to bring a third year of divisive bickering within the U.N. agency.

The agency's general conference adopted a Third World resolutions demanding that Israel open all its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards inspections.

The United States and other Western states voted against the resolution.

An Arab motion called on Israel to withdraw a threat to repeat its 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor and submit its nuclear plants to safeguards.

It asked the IAEA director-general to report next year on progress made towards these goals. The resolution was carried

by 53 to 22.

U.S. delegate Richard Kennedy said Friday after the vote that the IAEA faced another year of political debates that had no place in the agency's work.

The general conference was continuing into the night with routine business that was slowed down by the debate on Israel and South Africa.

The resolution on South Africa, which was passed by 57 votes to 10, gave Pretoria one year to open all its nuclear plants to international inspection or face IAEA sanctions.

It was tabled by Morocco on behalf of black African states, and said unguarded South African nuclear facilities enabled Pretoria to make nuclear weapons posing a security threat to the continent.

## Mintoff, archbishop meet to settle education row

VALLETTA (R) — Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and Roman Catholic Archbishop Joseph Mercieca have met for what appeared to be a last-ditch effort to find a solution to a major education row between church and state.

The two men met for nearly four hours Friday night after demonstrators supporting government demands for free education in church schools attacked the archbishop's curia earlier in the day.

No details were released of the meeting, also attended by Education Minister Carmenu Mifsud Bonnici, Justice Minister Joseph Cassar and the archbishop's private secretary, Father Joe Magro.

The Education Ministry has revoked the licences of eight church schools who have rejected a government condition that they should provide free education. The church says it cannot afford to give free tuition.

The eight schools now have been told that their primary sections will not be allowed to open at the start of the new scholastic year on Monday. The ban had so far applied only to secondary school classes.

The ministry said this was because the schools had failed to guarantee that only the primary sec-

tions would operate.

The church has said the schools would reopen as usual, but no-one is clear whether they will actually resume classes on Monday.

The government Friday placed police guards on the schools to prevent them from breaking the law by operating without licences.

Large crowds were expected in Valletta Saturday evening when Archbishop Mercieca celebrates the 10th anniversary of his nomination as head of the Roman Catholic Church on Malta.

He was due to celebrate mass in St. John's Cathedral in the capital, but the event could produce demonstrations in support of the church in the schools row.

A church official said Friday demonstrators damaged two chapels, a conference room, statues and paintings after breaking into the archbishop's curia.

A government statement said that the prime minister, as soon as he was aware of the incident, telephoned the archbishop and expressed regret on behalf of himself and the government.

Mr. Mintoff also condemned the attack when he attended a public meeting Friday night.

The ruling Labour Party and the opposition Nationalist Party also both condemned the violence.

## Irish Navy seizes boat smuggling arms for IRA

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish Navy Saturday seized a fishing boat trying to smuggle in a large consignment of arms and explosives from the United States destined for the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the government said.

A government spokesman said the trawler registered in the southern Ireland port of Fenit was seized by two navy patrol boats off Skelling Rock, south west Ireland.

A "huge consignment" of arms and explosives of U.S. origin was found on board, and five people on the boat had been arrested, the spokesman said.

A security source said the five included two well-known members of the outlawed IRA, which is waging a guerrilla war against British rule in Northern Ireland.

A Defence Department spokesman confirmed that the arms were destined for "an illegal organisation", but declined to comment further.

He said the trawler, detained at 1 a.m. (midnight GMT), had been under surveillance by the Irish Navy inside Ireland's 200-mile economic zone.

The boat was travelling from west to east, indicating it was coming from the United States, he said.

The spokesman said the trawler, named as the 15 metre Martine Anne, had at first refused to stop after being challenged by the patrol boats.

It halted after the navy fired four tracer bullets across its bows. A boarding party including Irish police immediately crossed onto the vessel and arrested the men.

The trawler was being escorted to the southern Irish port city of Cork.

There were no details of arms on board, but the seizure looked like being the biggest since 1973, when the Cyprus-registered ship Claudia was detained off the coast with 240 guns as well as mines and explosives from Libya on board.

Five men on board, including Joe Cahill, former IRA chief in Belfast, were arrested and eventually jailed, though Cahill was later released on health grounds.

He is now active in Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, which is a legal organisation.

## COLUMN

## Iran denounces West over sheep-slaughter case

LONDON (AP) — The speaker of the Iranian Parliament on Friday denounced Britain for making a diplomatic fuss about the alleged slaughter of a sheep by an Iranian diplomat on a London street while ignoring "incalculable crimes" against Muslims in the Middle East.

In a sermon reported by Tehran Radio and monitored in London, Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted as claiming the affair was "British propaganda." He accused the Western media of ignoring "the incalculable crimes perpetrated by arrogance in Lebanon and occupied Palestine and the slaughter of the oppressed Muslim people." But media had, he said, created "all this hue and cry about the sacrificial killing of a sheep, which is an Islamic tradition. We are facing such enemies."

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